

Philippians 2:1-4 **Living For Others**

Introduction:

Dr. Barnhouse in his book of illustrations gives us a story about a boy chewing bubble gum in the classroom. The teacher would not allow chewing bubble gum and blowing bubbles while she was teaching. When the bubble gum was taken away from the boy, he rebelled asking if he could be excused and go to the bathroom. The teacher gave him permission but while he was out he entered the furnace room to set the barrel of waste paper on fire.

Barnhouse, tells us the boy said in effect, "I am on the throne in my life, and I want everybody else to bow down before me. I want to rule! When I want anything, I want it, and that is sufficient reason for my having it. If anybody takes it away from me, I have a right to lash out and destroy anything that stands in the way of my whim and desire."

I. The Evidence That We Are Christians

A. Encouragement in Christ – John 17:20,21

1. Harmonious love for each other visible to the world – John 13:34,35

B. Incentive to Love

1. Cantankerous Christians
2. No excuses

C. Fellowship energized by the Holy Spirit

1. Beware of clickish groups
2. Vertical and Horizontal relationships – I John 1:3

D. Affection and Compassion

1. Compassion comes from the inward parts of man – Jam. 5:11
2. Critical questions: Do you have a lack of compassion? Do you rationalize your divisive conduct?

II. The Enemy of Pride – v. 3-4

A. The Dominate Christian Principle

1. The order of importance: God – Others – Ourselves
2. Fulfilling the Law of Christ- Gal. 6:2; Rom. 12:10; Matt. 25:31-46

B. The Background of all Selfishness: Ezekiel 28,

1. The passage tells us that Lucifer was the very highest of all created beings.
2. Lucifer was responsible for leading the creation in the worship of God.
3. Lucifer mishandled his high office to the point of pride – **Turn To: Ezekiel 28:15-19** cf. (Isaiah 14:12-15) Heb. Elyon – "Possessor of heaven and earth."

C. The Christian Alternative

1. Jesus emptied Himself – Phil. 2:6-9
2. Denying ourselves – Mark 8:34
3. The cross symbolizes the most dreadful kind of death – Mark 10:33-34

Conclusion:

How to live for our fellow-believer?

1. *Admit that in yourself you do not care for others. Without the power of the Holy Spirit you would follow Satan's choice. Me first! God last!*
2. *Humble yourself before the Lord – I Pet. 5:5-6*
3. *Invoke yourselves to daily fellowship with Christ – Phil. 4:13*

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